

Message Text

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17

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SR-02 ORM-01

SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00 H-02 NSC-05 AID-05 IGA-01 DODE-00

PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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P 120935Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2549

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MEDAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1990

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF, VS, SN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES - SINGAPORE SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. GOS AND MILIARY SOURCE INFORMED DAO THAT AS OF
EARLY MORNING MAY 12 TOTAL OF 6,289 REFUGEES HAD LEFT
SINGAPORE ON 23 VESSELS. OF THIS NUMBER 3,369 ARE
HEADED FOR GUAM AND 2,920 FOR SUBIC. APPROXIMATELY 1,213
REFUGEES REMAIN IN SINGAPORE, INCLUDING ABOUT 844 ON ST. JOHN'S
ISLAND.

2. UNHCR REP. KADRY CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MAY 12 AND
REVIEWED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS OFFICIALS ON MAY 11.
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HE REQUESTED THAT HIS REMARKS BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE.

HE SAID UNHCR HAD SENT GOS CABLE ON MAY 8 REQUESTING GOS TO PERMIT REFUGEES TO GO ASHORE FOR PROCESSING. KADRY SAID HIS REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY POSTPONED BY GOS, BUT THAT HE HAD REITERATED UNHCR POSITION IN MAY 11 MEETING. HE SAID TAY SEOW HUAH AND TAN BOON SENG ALLEGED THAT REFUGEES HAD INSISTED ON BEING ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR VOYAGE, AND ASKED KADRY WHETHER UNHCR WANTED GOS "TO FORCE THEM TO GO ASHORE." TAY CLAIMED REFUGEES WERE FEARFUL OF BEING SENT BACK TO VIETNAM IF PERMITTED TO GO ASHORE.

3. KADRY SAID HE ASKED TAY TO PERMIT HIM TO GO ABOARD VESSELS TO TALK WITH REFUGEES. TAY SAID HE COULD LET HIM VISIT REFUGEES ON ST. JOHN'S ISLAND, BUT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ALLOW HIM TO BOARD THE VESSELS. TAY ASSURED KADRY THAT DEPARTING VESSELS WERE ALL SEAWORTHY AND THAT VESSELS CARRIED APPROXIMATELY 15 DAYS OF SUPPLIES.

4. KADRY SAID HE PLANS TO VISIT REFUGEES ON ST. JOHN'S ISLAND TODAY OR TOMORROW, BUT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT HE CAN DO FOR THEM IN VIEW OF GOS PLANS TO PUT MOST OF THEM BACK ON THEIR SHIPS AS SOON AS THEY ARE REPAIRED. HE ALSO OFFERED FUNDS TO HELP FEED ANY REFUGEES REMAINING IN SINGAPORE. HOWEVER, TAY DECLINED OFFER, STATING GOS WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE NECESSARY RELIEF. KADRY FEELS THERE IS LITTLE MORE HE CAN DO HERE, AND PLANS TO LEAVE SINGAPORE MAY 13 OR 14 LEAVING ASSISTANT BEHIND.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME REFUGEES MAY HAVE INSISTED ON LEAVING SINGAPORE, WE BELIEVE MOST IF NOT ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE HAPPY TO COME ASHORE IF THE PURPOSE HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM.
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